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Grizzly skiers lose to Bobcats

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sports state + Big Sky

GRIZZLY SKIERS LOSE TO BOBCATS
wiltse/jg

MISSOULA---

The University of Montana ski team lost to the MSU Bobcats in their annual meet last week at Bridger Bowl in Bozeman.

The giant slalom was won by Dan Brelsford of MSU. UM's Eric Kress finished second, Dan Kress fifth and Arnstein Rustberggard sixth.

The Kress brothers finished first and second in the slalom event, with Eric taking winning honors. Arnstein Rustberggard had a fourth place showing. Brelsford of MSU did not finish.

In the Nordic events, Chuck Black of MSU won the 15 kilometer cross-country race in 49.12 minutes. UM finishers were Tom Dougherty, second in 49.42, John Richards, third in 51.33, and Chuck Wright in seventh place.

The UM team was tied with the Bobcats after the slalom race on the final day, but lost the meet when the MSU relay team won the 3x5 kilometer cross-country relay.

UM Coach Bob Leach believes a scoring mistake cost the Grizzlies a probable tie in the meet. "An inconsistent scoring method put total dependence on the relay," he said. "The way it turned out, one team could have won three events but still lose the meet if they didn't take the relay too."

Otherwise, Leach was pleased with his team's overall performance, particularly the Kress brothers. "Anytime you beat a bona-fida All-American like Dan Brelsford, you're skiing real strong," Leach said. He pointed out that Eric Kress finished only one-tenth second behind Brelsford in the giant slalom.

The next outing for the UM ski team will be the NCAA qualifiers at Winter Park, Colorado, Feb. 19-20. Leach expects "at least" four of his skiers will qualify for the NCAA finals.

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